

**AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT**

Please amend the abstract now appearing in the currently filed specification, as shown:

Method for checking the signature of a message, the message, signature, and a certificate having been sent by a signer having a public key to a recipient having a message storage device (11). According to the invention, ~~said the method~~ includes ~~comprises~~ the stages according to which: ~~• The the~~ certificate in the protected device (21) connected to the said storage device (11) of the recipient and checked and at least one checking result data element is sent to a display device (30) connected directly to the protected device (21), ~~• The the~~ result data element is checked on the display device (30), ~~• When when~~ the certificate is verified, a reduction of the message is calculated in the protected device (21) and the message is recopied onto the display device (30) during the reduction operation, ~~• The the~~ signature with the public key of the signer is decrypted in the said protected device (21), and ~~• The the~~ decrypted signature is compared with the reduction carried out, ~~• According according~~ to the result of the comparison, a message is sent from the protected device (21) to the display device (30) indicating that the signature conforms/does not conform to the message or to the public key of the signer put forward.

~~Application for protecting exchanges on communication networks.~~

(Figure 1)